

REMARKS

The office action of January 8, 2010, has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

In response to the preliminary matter regarding the Examiner's suggestion of filing a power of attorney, review of the file indicates that a declaration/power of attorney was filed on July 17, 2000. It is believed the information identified may not have been completely uploaded into the USPTO system to reflect this information.

Claims 17-30 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-16 and 31-32 were previously canceled. Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephonic meeting on March 22, 2010. Consistent with that discussed in the telephonic meeting, Applicants request reconsideration of the January 8, 2010, office action based on the following comments.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 18-30 stand rejected because they depend from rejected claim 17. Specifically, the Examiner requests that the term "a first computer" in claim 17 be changed to "a computer" for further clarity. Applicants have amended claim 17 to recite "a computer". Accordingly, the rejection under §112 with respect to claims 17-30 is traversed.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 18-30 stand objected to as being improper dependent claims for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Upon discussion with the Examiner, it was clarified that the objection was specific to claim 19. Consistent with that discussed with the Examiner, Applicants have amended claim 19 to depend from claim 18 rather than claim 17 for clarity and proper antecedent basis. The objection with respect to claims 18-30 is hereby traversed.

Application No.: 09/479,918
Amendment dated April 6, 2010
Reply to Office Action of January 8, 2010

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All rejections having been addressed, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,
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